



## Francel (France Lardy)

French, fl. 1960s–1970s

France Lardy, known professionally as Francel, was a French painter whose work belongs to the tradition of cubist abstraction that flourished in France in the 1960s and 1970s. Working within a visual language shaped by the structural thinking of Paul Cézanne and the gestural energy of Jean Chevolleau, she developed a practice that synthesized the formal rigour of Cubism with a coloristic freedom drawn from the Post-Impressionist tradition.

Her canvases are built from an interlocking architecture of color planes, each section considered both as a self-contained unit and as part of a larger compositional whole. The palette moves with purpose: warm against cool, opaque against luminous, structure against suggestion. What distinguishes her work from academic Cubism is its sense of movement. Lines carry momentum; passages of color generate rhythm. Critics described it as painting that makes music, drawing a comparison to jazz for its balance of structure and spontaneity, the sense of a composition that follows its own internal logic while remaining open and alive.

